

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 06455 022116Z

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 116

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 6455

E. O. 11652: GDS-4

TAGS: PINT, CI, SHUM

SUBJECT: CARDINAL SILVA ON RELATIONS WITH GOC AND MEETING WITH
PINOCHET

1. RAUL CARDINAL SILVA CALLED ON THE AMBASSADOR JUNE 30 TO
RECOUNT SOME POINTS HE SAID HE HAD MADE TO SECRETARY KISSINGER
IN THEIR MID-JUNE MEETING, AND TO ASK FOR US HELP IN EFFECTING
THE RELEASE OF LAWYER HERNAN MONTEALEGRE (SEPTTEL). AFTER HIS
RETURN FROM WASHINGTON, HE HAD MADE SOME OF THE SAME POINTS TO
PRESIDENT PINOCHET, WITHOUT APPARENTLY MAKING MUCH IMPRESSION.

2. THE CARDINAL SAID HE IS NOT A POLITICIAN, AND THE CHURCH HAS
NO POLITICAL FUNCTION. BUT THEY ARE DEEPLY INTERESTED AS CHRISTIANS
IN THREE MATTERS THAT INVOLVE THE CURRENT CHILEAN GOVERNMENT:
THEY MUST INSIST ON THE PRESERVATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, THE RIGHTS
OF THE WORKERS (WHICH WOULD ENCOMPASS THE CHURCH'S CONCERN FOR
THE EFFECT GOC ECONOMIC POLICIES HAVE ON THE POOR), AND FINALLY
POLITICAL RIGHTS. THE CHURCH PURSUES THESE ENDS, BUT IT WASN'T
NO CONFRONTATION WITH THE GOC, WHICH IT WOULD CONSIDER COUNTER-
PRODUCTIVE. HE THOUGHT THE USG MUST FEEL MUCH THE SAME TOWARD
THE GOC AND NOTED THAT BOTH ARE SUBJECT TO PRESSURES BY THE CHILEAN
LEFT MOVING THEM TOWARD CONFRONTATION. THE CHURCH GETS THE PRESSURE
IN CHILE; THE USG GETS IT IN THE US FROM THE ALLENDISTA EXILES
"CHILEAN EMBASSY" IN WASHINGTON, WHICH HE SAID IS MUCH MORE
EFFECTIVE THAN THE GOC EMBASSY.

3. ACCORDING TO THE CARDINAL, PINOCHET COULD NOT UNDERSTAND HIS
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PAGE 02 SANTIA 06455 022116Z

VIEWS. IN TRYING TO IMPRESS HIM REGARDING THE STATE OF US-CHILEAN

RELATIONS, THE CARDINAL WENT SO FAR AS TO SAY THAT THE DEMOCRATS
WOULD DBUTTLESS WIN THE CONGRESSIONAL AND PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS,
AND THAT THE GOC WOULD THEN BE WORSE OFF ON HUMAN RIGHTS THAN
BEFORE.
POPPER

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